

# Labor Resources for Ridgeland, South Carolina

## Executive Summary

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This profile contains information about the labor force within a 30 minute and 45 minute commuting distance from the center of Ridgeland, South Carolina. Ridgeland is located in Jasper County, South Carolina.

The profile examines three issues: labor force characteristics, the availability of labor, and the average wages and salaries in the community of Ridgeland.

## Labor Situation at a Glance in Ridgeland, South Carolina

| Labor Force Characteristics                   | within 30 min. | within 45 min. | South Carolina |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Population, 2004                              | 55,501         | 120,466        | 4,198,068      |
| Labor Force, 2004                             | 24,000         | 50,884         | 2,046,179      |
| Availability of Labor                         | within 30 min. | within 45 min. | South Carolina |
| Unemployed Workers, 2004                      | 1,321          | 2,913          | 139,607        |
| Unemployment Rate, 2004                       | 5.5%           | 6.0%           | 6.8%           |
| Workers Affected by Layoffs<br>(Past 2 Years) | 19             | 70             | 22,196         |
| Average Wages                                 | Jasper County  | South Carolina | United States  |
| 2003 Avg. Weekly Wage                         | \$474          | \$581          | \$658          |

## Labor Force Characteristics for Ridgeland, South Carolina

The composition and size of a community's labor force is linked very closely with demographic and economic conditions and trends in the region. The following labor force profile provides basic information on the population base and labor force characteristics so that the reader can better assess labor force conditions in the community.

| Labor Force                             |                       |                       |                   |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
|   | 30 min.<br>Drive time | 45 min.<br>Drive time | South<br>Carolina |
| Labor Force 2004                        | 24,000                | 50,884                | 2,046,179         |
| Change since 2000                       | 1,641                 | 2,656                 | 49,079            |
| Population                              |                       |                       |                   |
| Population 2004                         | 55,501                | 120,466               | 4,198,068         |
| Change since 2000                       | 3,812                 | 8,794                 | 186,056           |
| Projected 2010                          | 59,855                | 129,483               | 4,446,704         |
| Gender Distribution                     |                       |                       |                   |
| Male                                    | 28,381                | 60,980                | 2,040,261         |
| Female                                  | 27,119                | 59,486                | 2,132,454         |
| Age Distribution                        |                       |                       |                   |
| Ages 20-34                              | 12,086                | 25,721                | 875,330           |
| Ages 35-49                              | 11,289                | 24,212                | 925,330           |
| Ages 50-64                              | 9,169                 | 19,936                | 739,980           |
| 20-54<br>*Prime Working Age             | 25,670                | 56,003                | 2,084,880         |
| Highest Level of Educational Attainment |                       |                       |                   |
| High School                             | 16,505                | 35,245                | 778,054           |
| Some College                            | 11,220                | 24,655                | 500,194           |
| Associate Degree                        | 3,086                 | 7,054                 | 173,428           |
| Bachelors Degree                        | 8,172                 | 18,869                | 351,526           |
| Post Bachelor                           | 4,221                 | 9,895                 | 178,529           |

*\*Prime working age group:*  
People between the ages of 18-54 are often referred to as the prime working age group. In staffing a new facility, prudent managers often prefer to staff its production work force with workers whose ages form a normal distribution curve. This provides for stability, flexibility and continuity of knowledge.

Source: 2004 Estimates Based on 2000 U.S. Census of Population and  
Woods and Poole, 2003 Edition

## Employment Characteristics for Ridgeland, South Carolina

| Total Employment |                       |                       |                   |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Year             | 30 min.<br>Drive time | 45 min.<br>Drive time | South<br>Carolina |
| 2004             | 22,680                | 47,971                | 1,906,571         |

*Total Employment* data include all full and part-time wage and salaried workers in the area. These people may or may not reside in the area.

| Monthly Employment by Sector<br>In Jasper County  |                       |                       |                |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Sector  | 30 min.<br>Drive time | 45 min.<br>Drive time | South Carolina |
| <b>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting</b> | <b>116</b>            | <b>206</b>            | <b>12,379</b>  |
| <b>Mining</b>                                     |                       |                       | <b>1,603</b>   |
| <b>Utilities</b>                                  | <b>58</b>             | <b>178</b>            | <b>11,891</b>  |
| <b>Construction</b>                               | <b>2,140</b>          | <b>4,453</b>          | <b>111,730</b> |
| <b>Manufacturing</b>                              | <b>894</b>            | <b>2,084</b>          | <b>275,573</b> |
| Wood product manufacturing                        | 25                    | 120                   | 8,371          |
| Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing         | 17                    | 41                    | 9,155          |
| Primary metal manufacturing                       |                       |                       | 6,317          |
| Fabricated metal product manufacturing            | 57                    | 165                   | 27,357         |
| Machinery manufacturing                           |                       |                       | 21,278         |
| Computer and electronic product manufacturing     |                       |                       | 7,666          |
| Electrical equipment and appliance mfg.           |                       |                       | 10,748         |
| Transportation equipment manufacturing            |                       | 0                     | 30,932         |
| Furniture and related product manufacturing       | 18                    | 42                    | 4,225          |
| Miscellaneous manufacturing                       | 8                     | 19                    | 7,846          |
| Food manufacturing                                | 18                    | 45                    | 17,832         |
| Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing        |                       |                       | 1,445          |
| Textile mills                                     | 5                     | 13                    | 40,207         |
| Textile product mills                             |                       |                       | 9,724          |
| Apparel manufacturing                             |                       |                       | 5,321          |
| Paper manufacturing                               |                       |                       | 14,710         |
| Printing and related support activities           | 20                    | 49                    | 7,327          |
| Petroleum and coal products manufacturing         |                       |                       | 288            |
| Chemical manufacturing                            | 37                    | 114                   | 21,659         |
| Plastics and rubber products manufacturing        | 127                   | 380                   | 23,054         |
| <b>Wholesale Trade</b>                            | <b>300</b>            | <b>649</b>            | <b>62,523</b>  |
| <b>Retail Trade</b>                               | <b>2,723</b>          | <b>6,237</b>          | <b>224,031</b> |
| <b>Transportation and Warehousing</b>             | <b>294</b>            | <b>643</b>            | <b>46,941</b>  |
| <b>Education and Health Services</b>              | <b>2,538</b>          | <b>5,929</b>          | <b>156,232</b> |
| <b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>                    | <b>3,366</b>          | <b>7,637</b>          | <b>192,748</b> |
| <b>Professional and Business Services</b>         | <b>1,657</b>          | <b>3,753</b>          | <b>186,481</b> |

Source: 2003 Covered Wages, SC Employment Securities Commission

| Largest Industries by Total Employment<br>In <i>Jasper County</i> |             |                         |            |           |
|---|-------------|-------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Company Name  | City        | Primary Product/Service | Employment | Date Est. |
| Silver Star Trailers  | Ridgeland   | Aluminum horse trailers | 80         | 1994      |
| Kwalu   | Ridgeland   | Contract seating        | 80         | 1984      |
| Walsh Fabrication   | Hardeeville | Countertops             | 55         | 2001      |
| John White Logging  | Pineland    | Logging                 | 30         | 1989      |
| Lowcountry Concrete Inc   | Beaufort    | Ready mix concrete      | 28         | 1993      |
| Conex Concrete Express  | Ridgeland   | Ready mix concrete      | 20         | 1997      |
| Carauster Recovered<br>Fiber Group                                | Hardeeville | Waste paper             | 19         | 1992      |
| Fred Gretsch Enterprises<br>Ltd                                   | Ridgeland   | Drums                   | 14         | 1883      |

### Employer-Employee Relationship

Employer-employee relations in South Carolina are very stable and the state consistently ranks as one of the least unionized in the nation. In 2004, only 4.5 percent of the state's workers were members of a labor union. Additionally, the state has consistently had one of the lowest work stoppage rates in the United States. On average, less than .01 percent of working time was lost due to strikes in manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries combined.

## Availability of Labor

### Labor Force Participation & Unemployment

| Labor Force Participation & Unemployment |                       |                       |                |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Year                                     | 30 min.<br>Drive time | 45 min.<br>Drive time | South Carolina |
| Labor Force (2004)                       | 24,000                | 50,884                | 2,046,179      |
| Labor Force Change from 2000             | 1,641                 | 2,656                 | 49,079         |
| Labor Force Participation Rate           | 43%                   | 42%                   | 49%            |
| Unemployment (2004)                      | 1,321                 | 2,913                 | 139,607        |
| Unemployment Rate                        | 5.5%                  | 6.0%                  | 6.8%           |

The *labor force participation* rate is the percentage which results from dividing the labor force count by the total population.

*Unemployment* reflects the total number of persons who do not have a job and are actively seeking employment.

### Other Potential Sources of Labor Supply

| Total Jobs Lost<br>Due to Mass Closings and Layoffs<br>Past Two Years |                       |                       |                |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Sector  | 30 min.<br>Drive time | 45 min.<br>Drive time | South Carolina |
| Total   | 19                    | 70                    | 22,196         |
| Manufacturing   | 7                     | 11                    | 19,196         |
| Distribution  | 12                    | 59                    | 1,213          |
| Service   | -                     | -                     | 1,745          |
| Other   | -                     | -                     | 42             |

Recent closings and layoffs are a rich source of skilled and experienced labor for companies seeking to locate or expand in a given area. Industries in which layoffs and closings occur can provide some indication of the skills and knowledge-base of many unemployed and underemployed workers in a region.

| Commuters to Other Areas |                       |                       |                |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
|                          | 30 min.<br>Drive time | 45 min.<br>Drive time | South Carolina |
| Commuters to other areas | 5,692                 | 9,892                 | 31,833         |

Source: 2000 U.S. Census of Population

Workers commuting to places outside their residence are a significant source of experienced labor for new and expanding industries. These workers may be willing to consider an opportunity for employment nearer their place of residence.

## Recent Graduates of South Carolina's Colleges and Universities

| <b>Certificates/Degrees Conferred<br/>From Technical Colleges<br/>in Select Degrees Within 45 Minute Drive Time of Jasper County, SC</b> |  |
|--|--|
| Degree Area  | Two Year Certificates Conferred<br>2002 - 2004 |
| Computer and Information Sciences (Total)  | 70   |
| Data Processing Technology   | 70   |
| Engineering Technologies (Total)   | 75   |
| Electrical ,Electronic & Communications  | *  |
| Mechanical Engineering/Tech  | *  |
| Mechanic & Repair Technologies (Total)   | 235  |
| Industrial Electronics   | 154  |
| HVAC   | 81   |
| Precision Production (Total)   | *  |
| Machine Tool Technology/Machinist  | *  |

| <b>Graduation From South Carolina's<br/>Four Year Colleges and Universities<br/>In Select Degrees</b> |                               |            |
|---|-------------------------------|------------|
|   | Degrees Conferred (2002-2004) |            |
|   | Bachelors                     | Post- Grad |
| Computer and Information Science (Total)  | 910                           | 108        |
| Computer Engineering  | 150                           | 149        |
| Computer Programming  | 12                            | 5          |
| Engineering & Related Technologies (Total)  | 1,316                         | 786        |
| Chemical Engineering  | 136                           | 38         |
| Electrical Engineering  | 257                           | 150        |
| Industrial Engineering  | 78                            | 44         |
| Mechanical Engineering  | 268                           | 95         |
| Business Admin & Management   | 4,754                         | 1,018      |
| International Business/Trade  | 178                           | 276        |

Source: South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

## Wages and Salaries

| Average Wage and Salary Comparison |               |                |               |
|------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Sector                             | Jasper County | South Carolina | United States |
| Avg. Weekly Wages*                 | \$474         | \$581          | \$658         |
| Avg. Annual Salary*                | \$24,648      | \$30,240       | \$37,508      |
| Avg. Hourly Prod. Wages**          | N/A           | \$14.73        | \$16.14       |

\*Covered Wages and Employment, 2003, SC Employment Securities Commission

\*\* Employment & Earnings, 2004, U.S. Department of Labor

| Average Annual Salary Manufacturing Sectors, 2004 |               |                |
|---|---------------|----------------|
| Sector  | Jasper County | South Carolina |
| Manufacturing Total                               | \$25,392      | \$39,027       |
| Wood product                                      | ***           | \$30,808       |
| Nonmetallic mineral product                       | ***           | \$39,031       |
| Primary metal                                     | ***           | \$49,695       |
| Fabricated metal product                          | ***           | \$37,533       |
| Machinery   | ***           | \$39,952       |
| Computer and electronic product                   | ***           | \$40,186       |
| Electrical equipment and appliance                | ***           | \$40,178       |
| Transportation equipment                          | ***           | \$44,099       |
| Furniture and related product                     | ***           | \$27,907       |
| Miscellaneous                                     | ***           | \$34,350       |
| Food  | ***           | \$26,620       |
| Beverage and tobacco product                      | ***           | \$35,765       |
| Textile mills                                     | ***           | \$31,898       |
| Textile product mills                             | ***           | \$25,618       |
| Apparel   | ***           | \$23,705       |
| Paper   | ***           | \$55,139       |
| Printing and related support activities           | ***           | \$36,634       |
| Petroleum and coal products                       | ***           | \$49,113       |
| Chemical  | ***           | \$50,870       |
| Plastics and rubber products                      | ***           | \$46,620       |

\*\*\*Indicates data suppressed

Source: Covered Wages and Employment, SC Employment Securities Commission

## Occupational Wages In Ridgeland and Surrounding Area

| Average Hourly Wages of Employees<br>by Selected Non-Exempt Occupations<br>For Jasper County Area* |          |          |             |
|--|----------|----------|-------------|
| Non-Exempt Occupations   | Entry    | Average  | Experienced |
| Assemblers and Fabricators   | *        | *        | *           |
| Butchers and Meat Cutters  | \$7.89   | \$9.65   | \$10.29     |
| Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters   | \$11.55  | \$13.37  | \$15.99     |
| Chemical Equipment Operators   | *        | *        | *           |
| Chemical Plant & System Operators  | *        | *        | *           |
| Electrical & Electronic Equip Tenders  | *        | *        | *           |
| Extruding & Forming Machine Setters  | *        | *        | *           |
| Grinding & Lapping Machine Operators   | *        | *        | *           |
| Logging Equipment Operators  | \$9.90   | \$11.20  | \$12.29     |
| Installation, Maintenance & Repair   | \$10.25  | \$14.49  | \$17.83     |
| Machine Tool Setters & Tenders   | *        | *        | *           |
| Industrial Machinery Mechanics   | \$10.20  | \$13.13  | \$14.80     |
| Machinists   | \$7.90   | \$12.77  | \$16.65     |
| Packaging & Filling Machine Op   | \$6.67   | \$9.46   | \$12.50     |
| Molding & Casting Machine Op   | *        | *        | *           |
| Sewing Machine Operators   | \$8.38   | \$9.77   | \$11.04     |
| Textile, Cutting Machine Operators   | *        | *        | *           |
| Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer   | \$11.22  | \$13.75  | \$15.96     |
| Welders, Cutters & Solderers   | \$10.00  | \$12.03  | \$13.31     |
| Woodworking Machine Setters  | \$7.12   | \$10.53  | \$14.99     |
| Average Salary of Employees<br>by Selected Exempt Occupations<br>For Jasper County Area*           |          |          |             |
| Exempt Occupations   | Entry    | Average  | Experienced |
| Chemical Engineers   | *        | *        | *           |
| Computer Programmers   | \$26,740 | \$39,860 | \$51,400    |
| Engineers, NEC   | *        | *        | *           |
| First Line Production Man & Sup  | \$27,020 | \$38,420 | \$47,640    |
| Industrial Engineers   | *        | *        | *           |
| Mechanical Engineers   | \$47,520 | \$58,740 | \$67,520    |

Source: *Occupational Wage Survey*, SC Employment Security Commission

\* Indicates Suppressed Data or Data Not Available